

REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, original claims 1-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 16-34 have been added to avoid multiple dependency which is believed to be improper under the rules of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. In this respect, each of the new independent claims is identical to the original independent claims. In addition, certain of the claims have been revised to make it clear that the claims from which they depend are in the alternative. It is to be understood that the revisions to the claims are solely for formalistic purposes and not with regard to patentability and that applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the invention encompassed by the original multiple dependent claims or described in the specification.

Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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